

**Testimony of Shamari Sockwell
President of Waterbury Youth Council**

***H.B. No. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.**

*February 23 2017 Appropriations Subcommittee on Health Public Hearing
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, Regional Action Council Funding*

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, Senator Markley, Representative Dillon and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee, my name is Shamari Sockwell Pamela Mautte and I am President of Waterbury Youth Council I am here today to strongly oppose the grave cuts to regional action councils that will decimate the current prevention network structure.

IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL ACTION COUNCIL

I've been a part of Waterbury Youth Council for 2 years now and it serves me a great deal to be a part of something that helps our youth and community. We young people can and will make a difference in our society, RAC is most needed to youth and their mission is to prevent and reduce alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use in our community. We also, partake in youth led projects such as S.T.E.P Statewide Tobacco Education Program delivered to youth age 5-9, Blessing Bag Project (care items for homeless), and problem gambling prevention as well as substance abuse prevention also with the help of Regional Action Council (RAC). I urge you to **OPPOSE** currently proposed budget reductions to Regional Action Councils (RAC's), and encourage full restoration of current RAC funding moving forward.

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